

REMARKS

In the Action, claims 3, 5 and 13 are allowed. Claims 7 to 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hanafusa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,531,246) (hereinafter: "Hanafusa") in view of Yamazaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,632,538) (hereinafter: "Yamazaki") in view of Benson et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0027039) (hereinafter: "Benson"). Claim 14 is indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 7 has been amended to include the limitation of claim 14 that the batteries connected in series in the combination of batteries are cylindrical. Claim 14 has been canceled. Amended claim 7 is the same as claim 14 rewritten in independent form.

Removal of the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of the claims is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

The foregoing is believed to be a complete and proper response to the Office Action dated September 20, 2007, and is believed to place this application in condition for allowance. If, however, additional issues remain that can be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

PATENT APPLN. NO. 10/633,419  
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

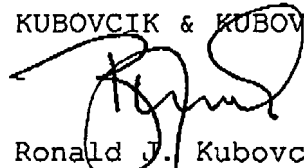
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In the event that this paper is not considered to be timely filed, applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for any such extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 111833.

In the event any additional fees are required, please also charge our Deposit Account No. 111833.

Respectfully submitted,

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